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LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the violation of the border of Georgia and shooting at the settlements by the helicopters of the air forces of the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-35360 (E) 181199

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Annex

Statement issued on 17 November 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

On 17 November 1999 at 12.10 p.m. local time the air space of Georgia near the village of Shatili was violated by three military helicopters of the air forces of the Russian Federation, which shot at the settlements in the region of Mutso Gorge. The nearby territory where a unit of the Border Guard Forces of Georgia was deployed was also shot at.

The above-mentioned act, which cannot be assessed otherwise but as direct aggression against a sovereign State, is a continuation of the purposeful anti-Georgian propaganda campaign being carried out by certain circles in the higher echelons of the authorities of the Russian Federation in their attempt to involve Georgia in the Caucasian war at any cost.

In connection with the above-mentioned fact of aggression, the Georgian side expresses its resolute protest, addressing its demand to the leadership of the Russian Federation to put an end to aggressive acts against sovereign Georgia and also to identify and hold responsible the officials who have planned and carried out this criminal act.